

CHAPTER 1  
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

1. GENERAL INFORMATION.

- a. Purpose. To ensure safety, security and service to the public.
- b. Primary Mission. The management and regulation of traffic to achieve safe, lawful and efficient use of the highway transportation system.
- c. Secondary Mission. Support local law enforcement and stand ready to assist in emergencies exceeding local capabilities.
- d. Objectives.
  - (1) Accident Prevention
  - (2) Emergency Incident / Traffic Management
  - (3) Law Enforcement
  - (4) Services: To maximize service to the public in need of aid or information
  - (5) Assistance: To assist other public agencies
- e. Authorities. Section 830.2 of the California Penal Code identifies the uniformed employees of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) as peace officers whose authority extends statewide. According to the Penal Code, their primary duty is enforcement of the California Vehicle Code or other laws relating to the use or operation of vehicles upon the highways. Division 2 of the California Vehicle Code further defines CHP function and powers, including authorities for accident investigations, CHP issued licenses, and emergency vehicle permits.
- f. Rank Structure. Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Officer.

## 2. HISTORY OF THE CHP.

The first automobile appeared in California in 1896. California's love affair with the automobile had begun. With the increase of automobiles, particularly in populated cities and counties, traffic accidents increased also. The first automobile-related fatality was recorded in 1902. The need for traffic control services became apparent.

Cities and counties began by regulating motor vehicle operations within their own jurisdictions. As each jurisdiction passed its own regulations, the differences from one area to another created a new set of problems. Therefore, in 1905 the California Legislature responded by providing the first in a series of laws related to traffic regulation. As the need for uniform motor vehicle regulations continued to grow, the "California Vehicle Act of 1915" was enacted, a forerunner of today's California Vehicle Code.

By 1923, the Legislature authorized the appointment of State Inspectors and Traffic Officers. They were paid and employed by the State to enforce motor vehicle laws. These appointees were assigned to work in a specific county under a system known as "Dual Control." The problem with "Dual Control" was that the Traffic Officers were controlled by the counties. California still lacked statewide uniformity in traffic law enforcement. Therefore, on August 4, 1929, the legislature created the California Highway Patrol. This new agency had statewide authority to enforce traffic laws on county and State highways - responsibilities that are still the Department's primary mission.

Over the years, the CHP has continued to grow and change, and has assumed many more responsibilities. Today the organization includes a diverse group of men and women that ensures that the responsibilities of the Department are carried out professionally and efficiently.

## 3. CHP GEOGRAPHICAL JURISDICTION/ORGANIZATION.

Since California is comprised of 158,693 square miles from Oregon to the Mexico Border, the terrain, weather conditions and roadways are extremely diverse (Annex 1-A). The CHP patrols all state freeways in the 58 counties, including those within city boundaries. These freeways include interstate routes, U. S. routes, and state routes. The Department has traffic jurisdiction on all public streets and highways in unincorporated areas under State and county control. In all, there are more than 98,000 miles of roadway within the CHP's jurisdiction.

The California Highway Patrol is divided into eight geographical Divisions covering the entire State of California (Annex 1-B). Personnel ranking from Division Chief to Traffic Officer command each Division. These ranking officials, along with civilian personnel,

command and operate Communication Centers and Commercial Vehicle Inspection and Scale Facilities posted throughout their geographical jurisdiction. Together these posts provide services to ensure public safety and security as well as to ensure lawful and efficient use of the highway transportation system. To oversee the CHP Divisions, CHP Headquarters in Sacramento provides general support to the various CHP programs, disseminates policy and procedure and provides training to run these programs.

#### 4. FULL PEACE OFFICER POWER.

The Department's primary purpose is to ensure public safety and provide responsive service to the residents of California. The Department's mission is met through the management of traffic on California's highways, roadways, and assigned surface streets. Traffic management consists of various responsibilities that include accident prevention, emergency traffic and/or incident management, law enforcement duties, and assistance to allied agencies and the public. Additionally, the CHP has the responsibility for investigation of all crimes that occur on state property, and protection of state buildings, state supreme court justices, and appellate court justices. The following is a list of some of the diverse positions necessary to accomplish and maintain these services.

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|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Motorcycle Officer     | • Air Operations          | • Academy Instructor   |
| • Recruiting Officer     | Pilot/Observer            | Staff Officer          |
| • Commercial Vehicle     | • Drug Recognition        | • Dignitary Protection |
| Enforcement Officer      | Expert                    | • Multi-disciplinary   |
| • Weapons Training       | • Court Officer           | Accident Investigation |
| Officer                  | • Safety Services         | Team                   |
| • Evidence Officer       | Program Officer           | • Equestrian Patrol    |
| • Advanced Accident      | • Background Investigator | • Bicycle Patrol       |
| Investigation Officer    | • Auto Theft Investigator | • Capitol Protective   |
| • Field Training Officer | • Training Coordinator    | Services               |
| • Canine Officer         | • Community Services      | • Court Services       |
| • Public Affairs Officer | Officer                   |                        |

#### 5. THE CHP ACADEMY.

The California Highway Patrol Academy is one of the most modern complete law enforcement training facilities in the United States and is recognized as one of the finest law enforcement training institutions in the world. The primary function of the

Academy is to provide basic training for newly appointed California Highway Patrol Cadets. The Academy can accommodate over 300 cadets at any particular time. Its secondary function is to provide specialized in-service refresher training and other related training for CHP employees or allied agencies. These courses include specialized classes such as traffic accident reconstruction training, emergency vehicle operations training, tactical riot training, general law enforcement training, and motorcycle enforcement training. Providing the best training available using modern methods is a trademark of the CHP Academy.

The dining facility seats 400 persons and food is served cafeteria style, three times daily. A recreation room is available for students' use during leisure hours. The Staff Office is located in the recreation building and is staffed by an officer 24 hours a day.

The multi-purpose room serves as a gymnasium and an auditorium for graduation ceremonies. It has a full-length basketball court, exercise machines, weight training equipment, and a whirlpool bath. A large water safety tank is used to teach water safety and underwater vehicle extraction rescue training. The underwater viewing room allows students and instructors to observe rescue techniques. Additional physical training facilities consist of a quarter-mile running track; a 442-foot long obstacle course; 2.5, 3.2, and 4.2-mile running trails; and a softball field.

There are eight Academy classrooms. Each classroom is equipped with a video projector, audiovisual equipment, and connecting cables for computer generated classroom presentations.

In addition to learning agency specific policies and procedures, cadets are academically responsible for 42 "learning domains" mandated by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), which was established by the Legislature to set minimum selection and training standards for California law enforcement. During the 26-week program, cadets receive over 1,400 hours of training.

The Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) is famous throughout the world as the finest law enforcement driver training program available. The facility consists of a 2.3-mile, high performance driving track, two skid recovery practice areas, and a defensive driving complex. Additional riding facilities are provided for motorcycle enforcement training.

The Weapons Training Unit has both an indoor and outdoor range, each equipped with 30 electronically controlled moving targets. Each area has lighting which can be controlled to simulate different environmental conditions or to allow training during hours of darkness.

# CHP GEOGRAPHICAL JURISDICTION/ORGANIZATION



# CHP GEOGRAPHICAL ORGANIZATION

## NORTHERN DIVISION REDDING

Crescent City  
Humboldt  
Garberville  
Red Bluff  
Cottonwood Inspection Facility  
Redding  
Susanville  
Yreka  
Mt. Shasta  
Dunsmuir Grade Inspection Facility  
Ukiah  
Clear Lake  
Williams  
Willows  
Quincy  
Alturas  
Trinity River

## VALLEY DIVISION SACRAMENTO

Sacramento Communications Center  
Auburn  
Gold Run  
Truckee  
Donner Pass Inspection Facility  
Grass Valley  
Oroville  
Chico

Placerville  
South Lake Tahoe  
North Sacramento  
South Sacramento  
San Andreas  
Stockton  
Tracy  
Woodland  
Yuba-Sutter  
Amador

## CENTRAL DIVISION FRESNO

Bakersfield  
Grapevine Inspection Facility  
Sonora  
Buttonwillow  
Fort Tejon  
Fresno  
Hanford  
Madera  
Mariposa  
Merced

Los Banos  
Chowchilla River  
Inspection Facility  
Modesto  
Visalia  
Porterville  
Coalinga

## INLAND DIVISION SAN BERNARDINO

Inland Communication Center  
Bridgeport  
Bishop  
Mojave  
Needles  
Barstow  
Riverside  
Victorville  
Rancho Cucamonga  
San Bernardino  
Arrowhead  
Morongo Basin

## GOLDEN GATE DIVISION VALLEJO

Golden Gate Communications Center  
Contra Costa  
Napa  
Redwood City  
San Francisco  
San Jose  
Hayward  
Nimitz Inspection Facility  
Marin  
Santa Rosa  
Solano  
Cordelia Inspection Facility  
Oakland  
Dublin  
Mission Grade Inspection Facility

## COASTAL DIVISION SAN LUIS OBISPO

Santa Cruz  
Hollister-Gilroy  
Gilroy Inspection Facility  
Monterey  
King City  
Templeton  
San Luis Obispo  
Santa Maria  
Buellton  
Santa Barbara  
Ventura  
Conejo Inspection Facility

## SOUTHERN DIVISION LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Communications Center  
Baldwin Park  
South Los Angeles  
East Los Angeles  
Newhall  
Castaic Inspection Facility  
Antelope Valley  
Santa Fe Springs  
West Los Angeles  
Altadena  
West Valley  
Central Los Angeles

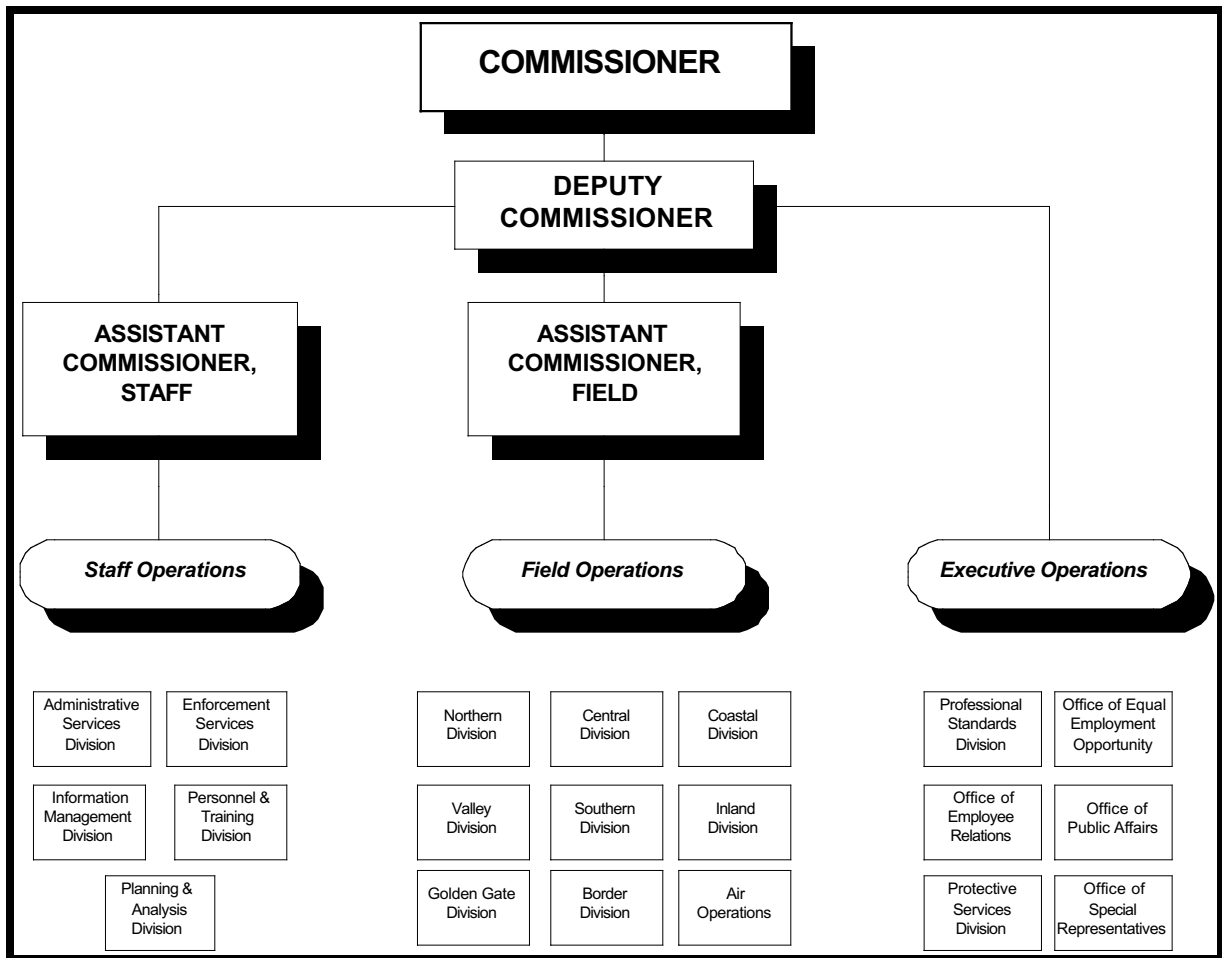
## BORDER DIVISION SAN DIEGO

Border Communications Center  
Winterhaven  
El Centro  
Calexico Inspection Facility  
Indio  
San Diego  
Otay Mesa Inspection Facility  
Oceanside  
San Onofre Inspection Facility  
San Geronimo Pass

Desert Hills Inspection Facility  
Blythe  
Westminster  
Santa Ana  
Orange County Communications Center  
El Cajon  
Temecula  
Rainbow Inspection Facility  
Capistrano

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## CHP ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**Rank Structure** - Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Officer